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The reduction of the micrometrical measures of Dr. Aitken, considering the star moving with the opposite motion of that of *Venus*, gives for each horn 3 lines of direction and 3 lines of distance. The combined observed places compared with those calculated from the position and diameter determined by the occultation are both further to the west and south, for the north horn resp. 0″.9 and 0″.7, for the south horn 2″.1 and 1″.3. This indicates that the horns extend 2°.5 and 4°.5 beyond the diameter, corresponding to a horizontal refraction in the atmosphere of *Venus* of 40′, accepting Mädler's formula, in good agreement with the value 44′ found by observations in smaller angular distances from the Sun. But if such a value of the refraction were correct the occultation of a star by *Venus* would require a long time; in fact, the star would begin to reappear almost before it had disappeared. The observations show that the fading of the light of 7 *Aquarii* was appreciable for only a few minutes before the star's disappearance; therefore we cannot be dealing with such an amount of refraction but perhaps with some opaque and changing hindrance to the light like high clouds in the atmosphere of *Venus*.

H. Thiele

March, 1918

Note on Comet *b* 1916 (Wolf)

The comet has been slowly receding from the Earth and from the Sun. On March 21st it is about two hours away from the Sun in R. A. Near the beginning of May it passes on to conjunction.

It may be possible to pick it up again after next July, but it will be exceedingly faint. The comet comes again to opposition near the end of November. The brightness at opposition will be only one-tenth what it was on January 8th, when it appeared as bright as a star of the 16th magnitude. The following ephemeris, computed from the elements of *Lick Obsy. Bull.*, 295, will show the region of the sky in which it should be found.

FOR GREENWICH MEAN MIDNIGHT

1918	α	δ
Aug. 12.5	$4^h\ 15^m.4$	+2° 04′
Sept. 13.5	22 .1	−0 16
Oct. 15.5	16 .0	2 57
Nov. 16.5	4 00 .5	5 00
Dec. 18.5	3 44 .7	−5 32

It will be theoretically of about the 18th magnitude, and decreasing in brightness.

H. M. Jeffers

Berkeley Astronomical Department